

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1301
By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Phi Mu Fraternity for
Women.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to the members of those exemplary organizations who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Phi Mu Fraternity was founded in 1852 and has grown to encompass a diverse membership of more than 140,000 women nationwide, with 120 collegiate and 175 alumnae chapters from Hawaii to Maine; and

WHEREAS, the record of Phi Mu's growth, activities, evolving goals, and its many accomplishments is a reflection of the development of a dynamic organization committed to scholarship and philanthropy in a changing culture; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 1852, Mary Ann DuPont (Lines), Mary Elizabeth Myrick (Daniel), and Martha Bibb Hardaway (Redding) founded an organization called the Philomathean Society at Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia; Wesleyan was the first institution to grant college degrees to women; and

WHEREAS, for the next two months, the founders were busy gathering additional members, creating a constitution, devising an initiation service, and adopting a secret and an open motto; on March 4, 1852, the members announced the formation of their new society, which became the Alpha Chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity; since that time, March 4 of each year has been observed as Founders' Day; and

WHEREAS, by the turn of the twentieth century, the Philomathean Society had developed a strong body of alumnae, a history rich in tradition, and the confidence to expand into a national organization; on August 1, 1904, the Philomathean Society was chartered by the

State of Georgia as a national organization with the exclusive use of the Greek letters ΦΜ and the right to establish additional chapters on other campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Phi Mu Foundation encourages scholastic achievement among Phi Mu collegians, and over 85 scholarships totaling more than \$85,000 will be available to qualified Phi Mu undergraduate and graduate students each academic year; in addition, Phi Mu alumnae may apply for low-interest loans through the Lewis Hughes Memorial Loan Fund for emergency educational assistance, professional advancement, and technological enhancement; and

WHEREAS, Phi Mu is the first Greek letter organization to establish a National Philanthropy Day; on the third Monday in October every year, Phi Mu women join together in philanthropic activities to improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, Children's Miracle Network (CMN) is Phi Mu's primary philanthropy focus; some 160 children's hospitals nationwide benefit from collegiate and alumnae chapter fund-raising events yearly; all monies raised stay in the local community for patient care, new equipment, and research into children's diseases, illnesses, and injuries; since 1986, Phi Mu members have raised almost \$4 million; and

WHEREAS, other philanthropic endeavors include contributions to the Dinah Kukes Cancer Memorial Fund Grant, which is awarded annually to a medical doctor in oncology research, distribution of instructional media to chemotherapy patients, Hoop-A-Paluzza to raise funds for CMN, and basic "hands-on" community service projects; and

WHEREAS, after more than 150 years without having a permanent place to call home, Phi Mu Fraternity and Foundation moved into their new facilities, the Phi Mu Memorial Headquarters, in Peachtree City, Georgia, on June 20, 2005; housed on the lower level of the new facilities, the Leadership Development Center will enable Phi Mu to create and implement training programs to help members meet the challenges they face on campus or in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Phi Mu members embrace three ideals within their creed: love, honor, and truth; in the final verse of the Creed of Phi Mu Fraternity members endeavor to, "practice day by day love, honor, truth, thus keeping true to the meaning, spirit, and reality of Phi Mu"; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Phi Mu National Convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 12th through the 16th, 2006, and it is highly appropriate that this General Assembly should honor the Phi Mu Fraternity for their estimable philanthropic activities and for enriching the social and intellectual aspects of college life in our nation and our great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that, in grateful recognition of the meritorious efforts and achievements of this estimable organization, we hereby honor and commend Phi Mu Fraternity and pledge our continued support for the cultivation and encouragement of high scholastic and ethical standards among college women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly welcomes the Phi Mu Fraternity for Women to the great state of Tennessee on the occasion of their National Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.